

**Date – May 2023**

**Manual** - Child and Family Services Manual, Chapter B, Prevention Services

**Transmittal # 305**

The purpose of this transmittal is to provide new, revised, and clarified guidance for *Chapter B: Prevention Services* of the Child and Family Services Manual. Unless otherwise stated, the provisions included in this transmittal are effective in May 2023.

Changes to the manual clarify existing guidance and enhance guidance on meeting the safety, permanency, and well-being needs of children and families receiving Prevention and In-Home Services. Changes were also made throughout the manual to address grammatical issues or minor clarifications that are not included in the chart below.

This transmittal and manual are available on FUSION at:

<https://fusion.dss.virginia.gov/dfs/DFS-Home/Prevention-Services/Prevention-Services-Guidance>

The entire Prevention Services Manual can be found on the public site for VDSS at:

<https://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/prevention.cgi>

Significant changes to the manual are as follows:

<b>Section(s) Changed</b>	<b>Significant Changes</b>	<b>Reason for Change</b>
2.5.1 Child or youth residing with parent(s) or relative/fictive kin caregiver(s)	This subsection was revised to clarify who should be assessed with a DSS-Enhanced Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment in each child safety scenario in an In-Home services case. A CANS must be completed for any child or caregiver who is identified on a service plan and receiving a direct or funded intervention or service.	This change was made based on feedback from the local departments of social services (LDSS).
2.5.2 Child or youth temporarily residing with relative/fictive kin caregiver(s) and will return to the parent(s) or caretaker/guardian(s) within six (6) months	This subsection was revised to clarify who should be assessed with a CANS assessment in each child safety scenario in an In-Home services case. A CANS must be completed for any child or caregiver who is identified on a service plan and receiving a direct or funded intervention or service.	This change was made based on feedback from the LDSS.

2.5.3 Child or youth permanently residing with relative/fictive kin caregivers(s)	This subsection was revised to clarify who should be assessed with a CANS assessment in each child safety scenario in an In-Home services case. A CANS must be completed for any child or caregiver who is identified on a service plan and receiving a direct or funded intervention or service.	This change was made based on feedback from the LDSS.
2.7.1.2 Who should be assessed with CANS	This subsection was revised to clarify who should be assessed with a CANS assessment. A CANS must be completed for any child or caregiver who is identified on a service plan and receiving a direct or funded intervention or service.	This change was made based on feedback from the LDSS.
2.11.2 Update the CANS	This subsection was revised to clarify who should be assessed with a CANS assessment when reviewing the service plan. A CANS must be updated every 90 days, in conjunction with the renewal of the service plan for any child or caregiver who is identified on a service plan and receiving a direct or funded intervention or service.	This change was made based on feedback from the LDSS.

Questions about this transmittal should be directed to the Regional In-Home Services Practice Consultants:

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